



RIVERS DEMOCRATIC VANGUARD

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PRESS STATEMENT

EXAMINING GOVERNANCE IN RIVERS STATE: A CALL FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The calculated and methodical approach of the Rivers State Governor, Sir. Siminalayi Fubara, GSSRS in evoking ethnic sentiments, employing veiled coercion, and engaging in diversionary tactics has been brought to light, prompting a segment of impartial Rivers residents to take notice.

It is now common knowledge that Governor Sim Fubara has utilized subtle subterfuge to mislead unsuspecting Nigerians who are largely unfamiliar with him beyond his ascent to power through the support of his predecessor, HE Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, CON, GSSRS, the current Minister of the Federal Capital Territory and his political network.

As members of the **Rivers Democratic Vanguard**, we are resolute in our commitment to ensure that the state government remains focused on effective governance and is not sidetracked by opportunistic individuals seeking to profit without making any substantial contributions. We are also dedicated to holding the State Government accountable, particularly when it neglects to demonstrate the required level of transparency.

This publication aims to assess the Governor's performance vis-a-vis the Federal Allocation to the State over the past six months that Governor Siminalayi Fubara has been in charge of the affairs of the state. The issues raised herein are intended to empower the public to evaluate his performance and counteract the influence of sponsored agents who have succeeded in diverting the attention of Rivers residents and other Nigerians from scrutinizing the Governor's mental and administrative capacity to deliver sound governance and build upon past achievements of his predecessor in office.

1. According to the Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) report for Rivers State from June to November 2023, the Governor received a total of **₦144,291,667,793.00**. (See table below)

THE SUMMARY OF ALLOCATIONS (FAAC REPORT) TO RIVERS STATE FROM JUNE TO NOVEMBER, 2023.

S/NO	MONTH	NET ALLOCATION (₦)
1	22 ND JUNE, 2023.	22,933,698,735.40
2	20 TH JULY, 2023.	28,550,997,373.66
3	21 ST AUGUST, 2023.	24,387,315,830.27
4	20 TH SEPTEMBER, 2023.	18,460,317,824.85
5	24 TH OCTOBER, 2023.	27,251,074,347.61
6	NOVEMBER, 2023.	22,708,263,681.22
TOTAL		144,291,667,793.01

What developments can be attributed to this substantial inflow over the past six months from the FAAC Account? The figure above does not include the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) that has accrued to the state in the past six months.

2. The following projects that were recently inaugurated by Governor Sim Fubara were conceived, executed and paid for by his predecessor, Nyesom Wike. The projects are as follows:

- Flag-off of Elelenwo Internal Roads on Thursday, 7th September, 2023.
- Commissioning of Mgbuodohia Internal Roads on Monday, 11th September, 2023.
- Commissioning of Government Comprehensive Secondary School, Borokiri on Tuesday 12th September, 2023.
- Commissioning of Dental, Maxillo-Facial, ENT & Ophthalmology Hospital and Prof. Kelsey Harrison Memorial Hospital respectively on Wednesday 22nd November, 2023.

3. While we acknowledge the Governor's endeavour to construct 20,000 Housing Units that was flagged-off on Friday 15th December, 2023 at Mbodo Aluu in Ikwerre Local Government Area, it raises the question of whether this initiative is primarily a public relations tactic designed to mislead the unsuspecting public, *abi* Governor Sim Fubara was just *playing to the gallery* considering the skepticism surrounding the purported capacity of the allocated land in Aluu Community to accommodate more than 5000 housing units alongside other essential infrastructures that are associated with such housing estate all over the world.

4. It is on record that the contractor that built the Golf Housing Estate in Port Harcourt during Governor Rotimi Amaechi's tenure has been granted the current housing project contract. There is apprehension regarding the fact that the previous housing initiative, which utilized state resources, failed to generate positive economic returns for the state's internal generated revenue. Even Governor Sim Fubara who was the Accountant General of the state before he became Governor can attest to this fact. Considering this, what is the economic rationale behind the housing program, given that a populist initiative in principle may falter in practice?

5. Given the harsh economic realities and the specific challenges confronting the people of Rivers State, should a self-proclaimed populist Governor not prioritize projects aimed at alleviating these circumstances instead of simply disbursing funds to Civil Servants during the Christmas season? How sustainable is this policy given the current realities? Moreover, what provisions does the government have in place for non-civil Servants who are not on the government's payroll? Is this not a precursor to inflation as the government workforce is less than 5% of the total population of the state?

6. On the 7th October, 2023, Gov. Siminalayi Fubara accompanied by Ambassador Desmond Akawor, then chairman of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Rivers State visited the state Songhai Farm Project and the Governor promised to revamp the farm project immediately. The media was agog with the news, three months after that visit, no effort has been made in this direction.

As the inaugural installment of an ongoing series shedding light on the realities within our state, we have opted to align ourselves with individuals of integrity, known for fearlessly upholding truth and fairness, to assert that the initial actions of Governor Sim Fubara mirror those of an individual who has opted to portray himself as a victim to mask his self-professed shortcomings and ineptitude, a stance he articulated on the day he assumed the ticket of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP.

Going by these verifiable facts, it is clear that the Governor of the State is only more interested in public perception rather than Governance, consolidating and improving on the gains of the governments before him.

In light of this, we choose to be on the side of truth which may not be the popular side, for the undiscerning minds.

We therefore call on His Excellency, the Governor of Rivers State, to choose the path of honor in choosing excellence over mediocrity.

THE BIG QUESTION IS WHAT DID THE GOVERNOR OF RIVERS STATE DO WITH OVER 144BILLION NAIRA IN SIX MONTHS? WE CHALLENGE THE GOVERNOR TO MAKE PUBLIC HIS ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS AND LEAVE THE FCT MINISTER ALONE.

Signed:

Tamunotonye Ibiba
President

John Igwegbe
Secretary